

Monthly Update – May 2011

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

SWEET POTATO TRIALS COMPLETED IN MOROGORO

Highly nutritious and highly marketable, sweet potatoes are one of the most important food security crops in Tanzania. One acre of sweet potatoes can yield more calories and far more protein than traditional staple crops such as maize. To maximize the potential of this food security crop in USAID-TAPP's target regions, the project conducted a sweet potato trial to identify which variety grows best in Morogoro. In collaboration with USAID-TAPP partner Kilimo Impact Tanzania (KIT), five varieties of sweet potatoes (Jeshi, Carrot, Christina, Tengeru, and Aloe Vera) were planted on trial plots in Gairo. All five varieties were planted at the same time and under the same conditions. After harvesting this month, it was found that the Tengeru variety had the highest yields. The results of this trial will be combined with nutritional analysis to determine which varieties of sweet potatoes are introduced to USAID-TAPP-supported smallholders to maximize yields, income and nutrition.

PARTNERSHIP FORMED WITH AIDS BUSINESS COALITION TANZANIA (ABCT)

AIDS Business Coalition Tanzania (ABCT) is an alliance of Tanzanian employers who have come together to fight HIV/AIDS in the workplace. ABCT works under a mandate from the Tanzanian Government and collaborates with various stakeholders to coordinate and support the private business response to HIV/AIDS.

USAID-TAPP has signed a partner fund award with ABCT that will develop HIV/AIDS workplace programs for TAPP partners and TAHA commercial clients. This agreement will develop HIV/AIDS workplace policies and will train 50 peer educators to train fellow employees on HIV/AIDS prevention. Additionally, positive kitchen gardens, in which nutritious crops proven to boost immune systems are introduced, will be grown on at least five partner farms.

KILIMANJARO BOWL INTRODUCES FOOTBALL AND NUTRITION TO YOUTH

USAID-TAPP collaborated with TAHA to help sponsor the Global Kilimanjaro Bowl, the first ever collegiate American football game to be played on African soil. Several clinics on American football fundamentals as well as health and nutrition were held in the days leading up to the big game, which 11,781 curious and enthusiastic spectators enjoyed.



Photo by Fintrac

Members of Umoja ni Nguvu, a group of farmers living with physical disabilities in Zanzibar, prepare a raised bed for onions. The farmers hope to grow more nutritious food and sell to the local market.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

TAPP is a 5-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. in conjunction with TAHA, the Tanzania Horticultural Association. It is designed to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification and improved market access.

Visit www.tanzania-agric.org for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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Health and nutrition manager Dorothy Magesse trained 120 children from the Peace House School – a boarding school for orphans and vulnerable children located just west of Arusha. The children were educated in HIV prevention and nutrition and enjoyed eating the fresh fruit supplied by TAHA. Magesse also reached out to the Women Leaders Group before the game to discuss the benefits of growing and eating healthy foods like Moringa, which helps boost immune system.

DISABLED FARMERS IMPROVE NUTRITION AND INCOMES ON ZANZIBAR

USAID-TAPP agronomist on Zanzibar Omar Mohamed is helping members of Umoja ni Nguvu, a group of farmers living with physical disabilities, grow more nutritious vegetables. The group started out by drying fish to sell to the local community, but with USAID-TAPP assistance they are now producing vegetables for home consumption and to sell at the local market. USAID-TAPP has established a vegetable plot for the group where the members are trained in improved agricultural practices and technologies such as seed bed preparation and nursery management.

CHILI MARKET LINKAGE ESTABLISHED

In January, USAID-TAPP facilitated a tomato workshop at the New Arusha Hotel to bring together tomato growers and processors from Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Lushoto. Darsh Industries, a major buyer of tomatoes and spices in the country, attended the conference where they pledged to source more locally grown products to supplement and eventually replace what they currently import from overseas. At this workshop, Mr. Mcharo, a farmer from the Tanga Region, learned of Darsh Industries' demand for locally grown chilies to be used in their tomato sauces. As a result, Mr. Mcharo decided to plant chili peppers to sell to Darsh Industries. This month, Mr. Mcharo is happy to report that, along with a group of 276 farmers, he is able to provide Darsh Industries with two tons of dried chilies a month. With this reliable source of income, Mr. Mcharo plans on re-investing in his farm to improve irrigation, storage facilities and on-farm drying and processing facilities.

TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Sack gardens are an inexpensive and easy way to grow nutritious vegetables. The major benefit of sack gardens is they can be anywhere – ideal for people with limited land. To make a sack garden place a pole (for stability) in the center of a jute sack and fill the sack with soil. Next, cut about 30 small holes, evenly spaced from one another, in the sides of the sack and plant the seedlings. Now all you have to do is make sure the sack gets enough sunlight and water. Crops that do well in sack gardens include spinach, kale, amaranth, and okra.